

REMARKS

Claims 3-19, 21-24 and 26 are pending in the application. Claim 16 has been amended by the foregoing amendment. Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 21, 24 and 26 are independent claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-13.

Claim 16 has been objected to for informalities; this claim has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 3 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,577,821 ("Desormeaux"). Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,173 ("Tretter"). Claims 14, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,338 ("Luo"). Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of Luo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,016,354 ("Lin et al."). Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Desormeaux in view of Luo and further in view of Publication No. U.S. 2002/0191861 ("Cheatle"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

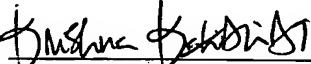
Applicant requests removal of the Desormeaux patent from consideration. As evidenced by the concurrently filed "Declaration under 37 §1.131" and corresponding Exhibits, Applicant's invention was conceived prior to the filing date of Desormeaux. This earlier conception was combined with diligence in filing the application. Accordingly, the rejection of all claims based on Desormeaux should be withdrawn.

The remaining documents (i.e. Tretter, Luo, Lin and Cheattle) fail to disclose
Applicant's invention as claimed.

All of the rejections having been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that this
application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.
Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this
application, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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